

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00192 021441Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0763
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TAGS: ELAB, OEXC, EAID, SE

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO CONVENTION, DEC. 8-24, 1977

REF: STATE 48022

1. CHARGE DISCUSSED AALC-FUNDED VISIT TO U.S. BY MISS MARGUERITE MARIE BAPTISTE IN HOUR-LONG MEETING MARCH 2. MISS BAPTISTE EXPRESSED EXTREME PLEASURE WITH ALL ASPECTS AND ARRANGEMENTS ATTENDANT TO BOTH THE AFL-CIO CONVENTION AND THE OTHER ACTIVITIES IN HER PROGRAM. SHE INDICATED PARTICULAR SATISFACTION WITH OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN HOUSTON.

2. SINCE HER RETURN, MISS BAPTISTE, WHO IS FIELD OFFICER WITH THE SEYCHELLES' WORKERS UNION WHICH REPRESENTS ABOUT 10,000 WORKERS (80 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S ORGANIZED LABOR FORCE), HAS DISCUSSED HER VISIT WITH MINISTER OF LABOR, HEALTH AND WELFARE MATTHEW SERVINA AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM GUY SINON. MINISTER SINON IS A FORMER LEADING TRADE UNION FIGURE WHO RETAINS AN INTEREST IN AND POPULARITY WITH SEYCHELLES' LABOR MOVEMENT.

3. BASED ON CONVERSATION, POST BELIEVES THAT THE OBJECTIVES IN PARA 1 WERE FULLY MET IN MISS BAPTISTE'S U.S. VISIT. IN
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ADDITION, SINCE SHE HAD NEVER VISITED THE U.S. BEFORE, SHE DERIVED MUCH BENEFIT FROM HER EXPOSURE TO THE U.S. AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE DURING HER 6-WEEK VISIT.

4. EMBASSY PLANS TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN REGULAR, INFORMAL CONTACT WITH MISS BAPTISTE WHO IS ONLY 23 YEARS OLD AND IS LIKELY TO RISE TO POSITIONS OF GREATER RESPONSIBILITY IN THE

LABOR FIELD.MATTSON

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